

Former BIS Investigator Indicted for Misuse of Law Enforcement Database

A former criminal investigator in the Office of Export Enforcement was indicted on September 19, 2007, in the Northern District of California on one count of unlawfully obtaining information from a government computer and one count of making false statements after an OIG investigation established he had accessed the Treasury Enforcement and Communication System (TECS) 163 times over a 2-month period in order to track the whereabouts of a former girlfriend. TECS is a secure, password-protected system designed to identify individuals suspected of or involved in violations of federal law, and permit direct communications between Treasury law enforcement offices and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. The former special agent also used the database to track the movements of members of the woman's family, and made harassing and life-threatening remarks to her, threatening to have her deported. When questioned by OIG investigators and his supervisors, he lied about the number of times he had accessed the investigative database for personal reasons. The defendant was scheduled for arraignment in October 2007. (*Atlanta Field Office*)

ATP Award Recipient Indicted and Assets Seized

On June 13, 2007, the recipient of a \$2 million Advanced Technology Program award was indicted for program fraud in the Southern District of New York, based on the results of an OIG investigation that found nearly \$400,000 in project funds had been diverted to the defendant's personal use. On June 25, 2007, a superseding indictment was filed, adding an asset forfeiture clause seeking \$390,000 and the apartment the defendant used as both a residence and a place of business. OIG agents served a seizure warrant the following day and recovered an estimated \$300,000 worth of computers and associated electronic equipment allegedly purchased with federal funds. A trial date has not yet been set. (*Atlanta Field Office*)



Arrests and Convictions Continue in International Telemarketing Fraud Case

For the past 4 years, we have been investigating a major telemarketing fraud scheme based in Costa Rica that was perpetrated by callers identifying themselves as employees of the Commerce Department and other federal agencies, who told victims they had won huge cash prizes in a national lottery. In order to secure their winnings, victims were instructed to use commercial wire transfer services to send payments of \$1,500 to \$4,500 to Costa Rica. The investigation is an integral part of the Department of Justice's Operation Global Con, a massive international fraud investigation involving nearly 3 million victims and more than \$1 billion dollars in fraud worldwide.

Since its inception, our investigation has resulted in a total of 32 arrests and 20 convictions of participants in the scheme, as well as a payment of nearly \$1.4 million in restitution from one defendant. (See March 2007 *Semiannual Report*, page 61.) During this semiannual period, eight defendants were con-